

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

March 22, 2001

RO-3

Michael Avella, Treasurer
New York Republican Federal Campaign
Committee
315 State Street
Albany, NY 12210

Identification Number:

C00055582

Reference:

12 Day Pre-General Report (10/1/00-10/18/00)

Dear Mr. Avella:

This letter is to inform you that as of March 21, 2001 the Commission has not received your response to our request for additional information, dated February 28, 2001. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. To ensure compliance with the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act), please respond to this request (copy enclosed).

The Commission is in receipt of your letter dated February 12, 2001 referencing the 2000 October Quarterly Report. Please be advised that in order to establish "best efforts" you still need to clarify that the follow up solicitation was sent within 30 days of the receipt of the contribution, that the return envelope was pre-addressed, and that the follow up did not contain additional solicitations. You should also address the remaining issues in our letter referenced above.

An adequate response must be received at the Commission by April 11, 2001. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Donald Averett on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or our local number (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,

John D. Gibson

Assistant Staff Director Reports Analysis Division

Enclosure



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Dear Mr. Avella:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the

NEW YORK REPUBLICAN FEDERAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE PAGE 2

contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution,
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

-You have received a contribution from Herrick, Feinstein LLP, which appears to be an unincorporated proprietorship or partnership. Generally, these types of contributions are to be attributed to each person based on their percentage of ownership in the firm. Each person who has contributed in excess of \$200 since January 1 should be identified by name, address, occupation, name of employer, amount of contribution, and aggregate total on Schedule A. 11 CFR §110.1(k) Please amend your report by providing the omitted information.

-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portion(s) attached) discloses a contribution(s) which appears to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) precludes a committee from accepting contributions from a person in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year. For your information, a partnership is included in the definition of "person" under 2 U.S.C. §431(11).

If the contribution(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If you have received a contribution that exceeds the limits, you must transfer-out

the amount in excess of \$5,000 to an account not used to influence federal elections or refund the excessive amount to the donor in accordance with 11 CFR §103.3(b). In the best interest of your committee, all transfers-out and refunds should be made within sixty days of the treasurer's receipt of the contribution(s). In order to protect the donor's interests, the Commission recommends that you inform the contributor(s) in writing to provide the denor(s) with the option of receiving a refund or granting written authorization for a transfer to another account.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for the transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), your prompt transfer-out or refund of the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Your EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE calculations for Administrative/Voter Drive are incorrect. EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE totals for administrative and voter drive costs are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year for the whole Administrative/Voter Drive category. EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE totals for fundraising, direct candidate support, and exempt activities are derived by aggregating all disbursements during the calendar year within a specific event. These should be calculated by adding the latest disbursement for a category or event to the previous EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE total for that category or event. This running EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE total should be disclosed after each disbursement is listed. Please amend your report by providing the correct EVENT YEAR-TO-DATE totals.

A written response or an amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

apm ym Donald L. Averett

Reports Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

SCHEDULE A

ITEMIZED RECEIPTS

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